

Farmington-Southfield Vicariate
St Fabian Parish
October 10, 2005

Several months ago all parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit were asked to submit recommendations through their respective vicariates for meeting the challenges anticipated in the next few years. Having commended us for our input thus far, Cardinal Maida's coordinating committee has asked parishes for additional information on several issues.

The issues and initial drafts of parish comments on those that affect St. Fabian Parish are given below. You are encouraged to read them and submit questions or comments you may have to any member of the pastoral Council by Monday evening, October 17th, at which time the council will finalize our report so that it can be reviewed at the October 25th vicariate council meeting and delivered, along with reports from other parishes, to the chancery in mid November.

DRAFT

1. *In your plan there are several references to collaboration and the sharing of resources among the various parishes in the vicariate.*
 - a. *What specific opportunities exist in the vicariate for such sharing and collaboration?*

Opportunities exist to continue sharing programs, activities and other opportunities with other parishes in the vicariate as our parish does now. (i.e., speakers, workshops, sacramental events, religious education, Christian service, CYO and other youth groups, etc.)

Teams from surrounding parishes as well as many non-Catholics participate in a number of our programs and activities. Our parish, in turn, is eager to participate in programs fielded by other parishes for which we may lack the expertise or resources to offer. One such activity in which we participate is the outstanding program for the handicapped offered by St. Clare parish.

- b. *What is the timetable for implementing these strategies?*

These programs and activities have been implemented and are on-going at St. Fabian. The parish is more than willing to share them with members of other parishes and (where appropriate) with non-Catholics as well.

A logical first step for increasing the effectiveness and impact of these strategies would be to develop as soon as possible a vicariate calendar listing all of the programs, activities and events offered by each parish in the vicariate and disseminating this master calendar to all parishes in the vicariate. Parishioners in all parishes within this vicariate would then be aware of the rich variety of events available in the vicariate and could be encouraged to participate in those in which they might be interested. A major benefit of this cross pollination approach will be maximum utilization of the skills and resources available among all parishes

within the vicariate.

c. Who will be responsible for these efforts at both the parish and vicariate levels?

The members of the various parish councils would be responsible for these efforts within their respective parishes, while the parish representatives on the vicariate council, working with the vicar, would be responsible for developing the master calendar of vicariate programs and events and for necessary coordination among parishes. Parish program directors - working together - would be responsible for coordinating inter-parish events.

d. What is the level of participation of the national parishes in the vicariate efforts? How can the national parishes be more fully included in collaborative strategies?

Members of national parishes in the vicariate have been invited to participate in many of the programs and activities of our parish and those who do so have been welcomed and encouraged. In some cases, tutors are provided to overcome cultural barriers which may impede participation. Our school is one area where collaboration has been especially effective. (See also item 2a below.)

e. Several religious communities are represented in the vicariate. Who are they and what is their level of involvement in the pastoral life of the vicariate? How can they be more fully included in the collaborative efforts of the vicariate?

Our parish offers and receives both spiritual and educational support from several religious communities in the vicariate. These include Franciscans at St. Michael in Southfield, Bernardine Sisters Convent, Dominican Sisters at the Blessed Sacrament Monastery, and Mercy Marian Oakland-West Senior Housing all in Farmington Hills. Members of these organizations have been invited to participate in our Liturgy and other activities and many do so.

2. *Please identify specific opportunities and strategies for providing outreach and evangelization to the African American and Asian population in the vicariate.*

Individuals across the broad spectrum of diverse ethnic populations living in our area are welcome to participate in all parish programs and activities and many do so. These include not only African Americans and Asians, but Hispanics, Indians and people in other ethnic populations as well. With this in mind, we recommend that this item be expanded to include all ethnic and cultural populations living in this vicariate.

Two strategies bear priority consideration:

a. At the vicariate level, initiate dialogue with members of each of these populations to determine what unique celebrations might be especially

meaningful to them. Having done so, determine how some of these celebrations might be added to or incorporated into various existing vicariate and/or parish programs and activities.

b. Lack of priests and representatives of the various parish ministries can be a significant barrier to achieving success in working with some of these populations. To overcome this barrier, a strategy could be developed at the vicariate level to identify priests and those in our various ministries who are proficient in each language spoken by these populations.

3. This question does not apply to our parish.
4. This question does not apply to our parish.
5. This question does not apply to our parish.
6. This issue does not apply to our parish.
7. *Are there collaborative efforts that could be undertaken between Our Lady of Sorrows and St Fabian schools? What efforts could be made at the vicariate level to financially support these schools?*

The next step in identifying collaborative efforts would be for the principals in both parishes to come together and discuss additional ways they might collaborate. Both schools already accept students from the surrounding parishes as well as non-Catholic students. Parishes within our vicariate which might merge or close in the future would not impact either school much because those other parishes do not have schools so we already are welcoming their children to our schools.

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